

CASELOAD REDUCTION COMPUTATION

For Information and Comment:

“Welfare reform” was implemented through the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA) of 1996. This is also known as Public Law 104-193. As part of this law, the Department is required to get a certain percentage of its caseload employed each year. There are financial penalties for not meeting this requirement. When we refer to this law and our caseload, we are referring to the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) or AFDC – F caseload. This is the category controlled by PRWORA

Under PRWORA, the percentage of the caseload which must be employed can be reduced by the amount the caseload is reduced from the “base year” caseload of 1995. In other words, if I had to have 35% of the caseload employed in 2000 and my caseload in 2000 decreased by 15% from the base year of 1995, the actual number of cases I would need to have employed in the year is 35% minus 15%.

The exception to claiming this decrease is that the state may not claim a decrease for any case that was closed due to a negative policy change. For example, when we instituted “full family sanctions” for non-compliance with work requirements, we may not claim any of the cases closed under this rule when computing our caseload reduction.

PRWORA also requires that we publish our method of determining the caseload reduction and elicit public comment. The comments will be forwarded to The Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Family Assistance. This explanation will be visible on our Web page for two weeks. Anyone wishing to submit comments should send them to:

Department of Human Services
Benefit Employment and Support Services Division
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, HI 96809-0339
Attn: K. Foster

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Process for Determining Caseload Reduction:

1. We totaled the average monthly caseload for 10/94 through 09/95. We divided this amount by 12 months to determine our average monthly caseload for Fiscal Year (FY) 1995.
2. We subtracted all of the 2 parent families and the non-citizens from this figure. They are not included in TANF and we did not feel they should impact the caseload reduction.
3. FY 1995 is our “base” caseload.
4. For Fiscal Year (FY)2000, we totaled our monthly caseload for the period 10/99 through 09/00. To this figure, we added all of the cases which had been closed for failure to comply with our work requirements. This figure was then divided by 12 to determine our average monthly caseload. The average monthly caseload for FY 2000 was compared to the average monthly caseload for FY 1995 to compute the percentage of reductions.